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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Bush: Iran a nuclear threat - Aksam  
Bush won't tolerate Iranian nuclear weapons - Turkiye  
French support to mullahs - Vatan  
Grossman: Gul will be given warm welcome in U.S. - Vatan  
Gul to U.S. in July - Hurriyet  
U.S. disarms PKK in N. Iraq - Sabah  
Iraqi snipers hunt coalition troops - Sabah  
Greek envoy complains of Turkish military flights over Greek  
islands - Hurriyet  
Verheugen: Cyprus solution needed before May 2004 - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Demonstrations growing throughout Iran - Radikal  
U.S. officials confirm strategic partnership with Turkey -  
Radikal  
Powell visit might bring cease-fire to Mideast - Zaman  
Americans fire on Iraqi demonstrators - Cumhuriyet  
Verheugen: Need for solution before 2004 non-negotiable -  
Zaman  
Denktas blocks efforts for Cyprus solution - Radikal  
Alan Larson: Turkey attractive for investment - Yeni Safak

FINANCIAL JOURNALS

U.S. grant awaiting IMF review - Dunya  
High fares keep cruise ships away from Turkish ports -  
Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

MFA delegation in U.S.: Ankara's package of measures on  
Iraq, presented to the U.S. by the MFA delegation led by U/S  
Ziyal, has been welcomed by American officials. Turkey and  
the U.S. have agreed to hold a high-level military meeting  
in November, and a meeting of the Economic Partnership  
Council in the Fall. Dailies point to a statement by Phil  
Reeker, in which he underlined the long-term strategic  
partnership between the two countries. Dailies also carry  
Grossman's remarks urging the U.S. and Turkey to look to the  
future following the tension over the Iraq war. 'We have a  
long list of things to do together,' Grossman said. He also  
noted that Foreign Minister Gul was welcome to visit the  
U.S. anytime. Amb. Ziyal said at a press conference in  
Washington on Wednesday that FM Gul may pay an official  
visit to the U.S. in the next month. "Cumhuriyet" says that  
in an effort to please the U.S., Ankara is reshaping its  
Iraqi policy, normalizing ties with Armenia, and moving away  
from Arafat, Iran and Syria.

EU harmonization laws: The parliamentary justice committee  
approved the 6th EU harmonization package and submitted it  
to the general assembly to be discussed on Thursday. All  
signs point to a swift approval procedure, with new positive  
amendments on the anti-terror law and Kurdish broadcast and  
education. Justice Minister and government spokesman Cemil  
Cicek said Ankara hoped to receive a date for membership  
negotiations before December 2004. The European  
Commission's Turkey Representative, Hans-Jorg Kretschmer,  
said he was pleased that the package had been forwarded to  
parliament without being discussed at the National Security  
Council (NSC).

Anti-corruption move; \$1 billion U.S. grant: The Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Committee is expected to decide on an investigation of former ANAP leader Mesut Yilmaz and five other former cabinet members on charges of irregularities and graft in energy contracts and privatization. Investigations could pave the way for criminal prosecution of the former politicians. Meanwhile, dailies report U.S. Congressional sources as saying that the \$1 billion U.S. grant for Turkey could be delivered in four tranches within a five-year period, depending on the completion of the fifth review of Turkey's \$16 billion IMF package.

WT article blames Ambassador Pearson: Most papers carry excerpts from a Washington times article holding U.S. Ambassador Pearson as responsible for leaking to the press negative information about Turkey during negotiations with Ankara leading up to the Iraq war.

American Corners: In coordination with local chambers of commerce, the U.S. Embassy inaugurated American Corners in the Turkish provinces of Gaziantep, Bursa and Kayseri. The Corners will serve as information offices to help Turks manage business and educational relationships with their American counterparts.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Iraq"  
Cengiz Candar opined in the conservative DB Tercuman (6/19): "Turkey should evaluate its policy about the future of this region rather than obsessing over the rhetoric of the Turkish-American relationship. Turkey's stance on the region's future will be the most determining factor in shaping its relations with the US. Given that fact, it is useless to stick with the line that 'America does not know what to do in Iraq, but Turkey can do a lot for the US there.' Turkey better be answering the following question: Does Turkey really know what type of Iraq it wants to see in the post-war era? How will Turkey try to realize its vision? The future of Turkish-American relations is directly linked to these questions."

"A War after the war in Iraq"  
Sami Kohen observed in mass appeal Milliyet (6/19): "Following the end of Iraq war, it seems that the US is seeing a new type of war in Iraq. Recent incidents, which appear to be growing, might signal a 'war after the war' for the US. This has the potential to continue for a longer period, and might cause more US casualties than the war itself. The current atmosphere in Iraq - illegality, unemployment, and poverty -- is problematic enough to drive Iraqis mad. The existing power vacuum is negative enough, and anti-American sentiment among various ethnic and religious groups is only making it worse. Military strategists in the Washington administration knew well how to win the war. Yet political strategists seem to have failed to plan for establishing order in the post-war period. The US will be facing an even more serious situation unless it manages to establish a new political and economic order in Iraq as fast as possible."

PEARSON